

Remarks

Currently pending are claims 14-15, 17-18, 21-23 and 25-28. Claim 14 has been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention. Support for the amendment can be found at, for example, claim 24. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has cancelled claim 16 rendering this rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 14-18, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pinnavaia (US 5,760,106). Applicant traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

As the Examiner notes in Paragraph 8 of the Office Action mailed 12/07/09, Pinnavaia does not disclose a nanoscale platelet filler plus a filler that interacts with the platelet filler. Therefore, Pinnavaia does not anticipate claim 14 or dependant claims 15-18, 21 and 22 and Applicant respectfully requests the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinnavaia in view of Kobayashi (US 6,342,295) and Fitzgerald (US 2,887,458). Applicant traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

For the reasons set forth above, Pinnavaia neither teaches nor suggests the addition of a filler that interacts with the nanoscale platelet filler as currently claimed. Kobayashi and Fitzgerald also do not teach or suggest such a mixture of materials. Accordingly, Pinnavaia combined with Kobayashi and Fitzgerald does not render claim 23 obvious and Applicant requests the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejected claims 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinnavaia in view of Zilg (US 6,197,849). Applicant traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 25, which depends on independent claim 14, and independent claim 26 are generally directed to a composition containing at least two separate reactive components wherein at least two of the reactive components each contains a nanoscale platelet filler combined with a filler that interacts with the platelet filler.

In comparison, Pinnavaia generally teaches an epoxy-clay nanocomposite prepared from an epoxy resin, hardener and organo-clay particles. Pinnavaia neither teaches nor suggests the further addition of a filler that interacts with the organo-clay particles. Moreover, Pinnavaia neither teaches nor suggests separate epoxy resin and hardener components that each contain organo-clay particles plus a filler that interacts with the organo-clay particles. Instead, Pinnavaia teaches mixing the epoxy resin and hardener to form an epoxide-amine mixture and then adding the organo-clay particles to this mixture (*see US 5,760,106* at col. 8, lines 43-47). Thus, claims 25 and 26 are clearly distinguished from Pinnavaia.

The Examiner has added the teachings of Zilg for the purpose of teaching the further addition of a filler to Pinnavaia's epoxy-clay nanocomposite. While Zilg does

teach the addition of conventional additives, such as fillers, to polymer/organo-clay nanocomposites, Zilg does not teach or suggest two separate reactive components each containing a nanoscale platelet filler and a filler that interacts with the platelet filler. Rather, Zilg teaches the platelet filler may be added either to the resin or to the hardener but not to both. (*see U.S. Pat. No. 6,197,849* at col. 10, ll. 6-24). Thus, neither Pinnavaia nor Zilg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of Applicant's presently claimed invention and Applicant respectfully requests the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

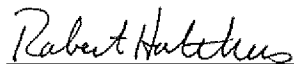
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that claims 14-15, 17-18, 21-23 and 25-28 are patentable and are in a condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests these claims be allowed and that the application pass to issuance.

The Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized to deduct any fee due in connection with the filing of this document from Huntsman Corporation Deposit Account No. 08-3442.

Respectfully Submitted,

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